

SITUATION REPORT NO. 29
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: February 13, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: In Grand Forks County, a Mekinock area farmer reported that the roof of a machinery-storage building collapsed under the weight of snow, causing \$5,000 in damages.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on February 11 issued a Declaration of Economic Injury for 49 North Dakota counties as a result of severe winter storms and blizzard conditions. The SBA designated all but Billings, Bowman, Golden Valley, and Slope Counties as the disaster loan area. These counties may be added on to the declaration if economic injury due to the severe winter storms is identified. Small businesses and agricultural cooperatives in the 49 declared counties may file applications for economic injury assistance until November 12, 1997. The interest rate for eligible businesses and cooperative is 4 percent.

The Disaster Field Office (DFO) staff has received 193 Notice of Interests (NOIs) to participate in the public assistance program. NOIs have been submitted by: one rural water district; three Indian Reservations; three state agencies; 44 counties; and 142 cities.

State and federal inspectors assigned to the Devils Lake office have visited nine counties and 22 cities. Inspectors at the Valley City office visited six counties and twelve cities. Minot inspectors traveled to 10 counties and eight cities, and Bismarck inspectors visited 10 counties and 30 cities.

Snow removal efforts by N.D. National Guard crews are progressing in Barnes, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Grant, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, Nelson, Ransom and Stutsman Counties. National Guard personnel expect the 13 missions underway to continue at least through February 14. The missions remain staffed by 66 Army Guard and two Air Guard personnel. Equipment includes 30 dozers, 29 tractor-trailers, 32 support vehicles and one grader.

In Kidder County, the cities of Tappen and Tuttle have issued emergency declarations. Since winter storms first struck the state, 52 counties, 77 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Temperatures today will range from the 30's in the west to 20's in the east. There is a 30-40% chance of light snow developing this afternoon. Winds from 15-30 mph will cause blowing and drifting snow in open areas. Travelers will experience reduced visibility with snowdrifts forming on the highways.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos of snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director